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The National Security Working Group (NSWG) provides wide-spectrum coverage of issues like the Iranian threat, missile defense, sequestration, New START, events in Syria and more. We look forward to providing this newsletter to RSC members and welcome your input throughout the 113th Congress.

The Changing Needs of the Department of Defense (Rep. Franks)

More than any other department, DOD's responsibilities address paramount functions of the Federal government, while facing the most dynamic world-wide challenges ranging from implementation of geo-political strategies to immediate crisis intervention. Our Defense Department uses everything from localized operations on the ground in dozens of countries, to unmanned technologies that reach far into space. Effectively managing an organization with this scope of activity necessitates a large degree of resource allocation *flexibility*, including the ability to shift priorities in response to rapidly evolving threats to national security.



Secretary Hagel and General Martin Dempsey face increased fiscal challenges in the years ahead.

As Congress requires DOD to operate under greater budget constraints, we should not deny necessary management tools to the department. Passing annual defense authorization and appropriations bills provides the opportunity to address changing resource needs and gives Congress a way to provide DOD some measure of relief from the most oppressive restrictions on effective management practices. An example would be that the Asia/Pacific rebalance requires rethinking shipbuilding plans for the Navy; the appropriations bill is essential to matching resources with the requirement.

as an anomaly to a Continuing Resolution. One obvious way Congress addresses changing needs within the department is through the legislative hearing and oversight processes within the defense committees. A recent example was identified in testimony from DOD officials earlier this year. ***This testimony highlighted the impact of fiscal austerity and budget sequestration on the ability of a combatant command to adequately detect and respond to a number of irregular threats in its region that can imperil our homeland security and support international terrorism.***

Based upon its awareness of new and emerging technologies that might help fill the gap left by cut backs in the operation of more traditional systems, the committee has encouraged the department to examine the use of smaller, newly developed unmanned air and surface platforms to improve detection tracking, targeting and engagement of those irregular threats.

One essential response to not only the current budget restraints is to increase utilization of smaller, more capable, cost effective, autonomous platforms that can provide the persistent intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance needed by our combatant commands. Advances in areas such as electronics, computers and material science are resulting in smaller, lighter more capable sensors that can exploit new spectra and/or exploit previously used signatures more effectively. Deployment of more capable and affordable ISR sensors, platforms and systems is vital to achieving the capabilities required to meet the documented goal of the Secretary of Defense.

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No Border Security, No Immigration Reform (Rep. Tom Cotton)

Much has been discussed about immigration reform in the last several months. But the most important component, one that indeed concerns our national security, is just about the lowest priority in the Senate-passed immigration reform bill. The border security measures in the Gang of 8 bill are weak and ineffective—unsurprising, as the bill is instead focused on legalizing the 12 million illegal immigrants in the U.S. today, essentially ignoring the millions of individuals and families patiently waiting to immigrate legally. This approach is unjust and counterproductive.

This basic design flaw of the Senate bill repeats the mistake of the 1986 amnesty law, which, according to former Attorney General Edwin Meese, President Reagan considered the biggest mistake of his presidency. The Senate bill ensures, as did the 1986 law, that we'll have full legalization but little-to-no enforcement. Effective enforcement requires a border fence, a visa-tracking system to catch visa overstayers, and a workable employment-verification system. The Senate bill fails on all three fronts.

Given the demonstrated failures of the 1986 immigration reform and those included in the Senate bill, the House not only must not take up any bill resembling the Senate's approach, it must also not go to conference with the Senate. We must stand firm with an enforcement-first approach before beginning a discussion about legalization. The House and Senate approaches to immigration reform are entirely divergent and therefore are irreconcilable.

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